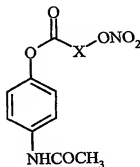


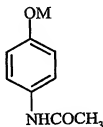
CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing a compound of the following formula (I):



(I)

wherein X is a straight or branched C₁-C₂₀-alkylene chain, said process comprising reacting a compound of the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein M is a hydrogen atom or a cation of an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, an onium cation with a compound of the following formula (III):



wherein Y is OH, Cl, OCOOR, OCO-X-COY wherein R is a C₁-C₆ alkyl and X is as defined above.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein X is a straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl chain.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein X is a propylene chain.

4. The process according to claim 1-3 wherein Y is OH and M is a hydrogen atom.

5. The process according to claim 4 wherein the reaction is carried out in aprotic dipolar solvents, in the presence of a dehydrating agent selected from: dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC); or DCC and an aminopyridine; Amberlyst-15; diethyl azodicarboxylate and triphenylphosphine.

6. The process according to claim 1-3 wherein M is Na or K and Y is Cl.

7. The process according to claim 6 wherein the reaction is carried out in dipolar aprotic solvents selected from tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, tert-butyl methyl ether.

8. The process according to claims 1-3 wherein M is an onium cation and Y is Cl.

9. The process according to claim 8 wherein the onium cation is selected from tetralkylammonium or tetralkylphosphonium and the reaction is carried out in aprotic solvents selected from toluene, chlorobenzene, tetrahydrofuran, tert-butyl methyl ether.